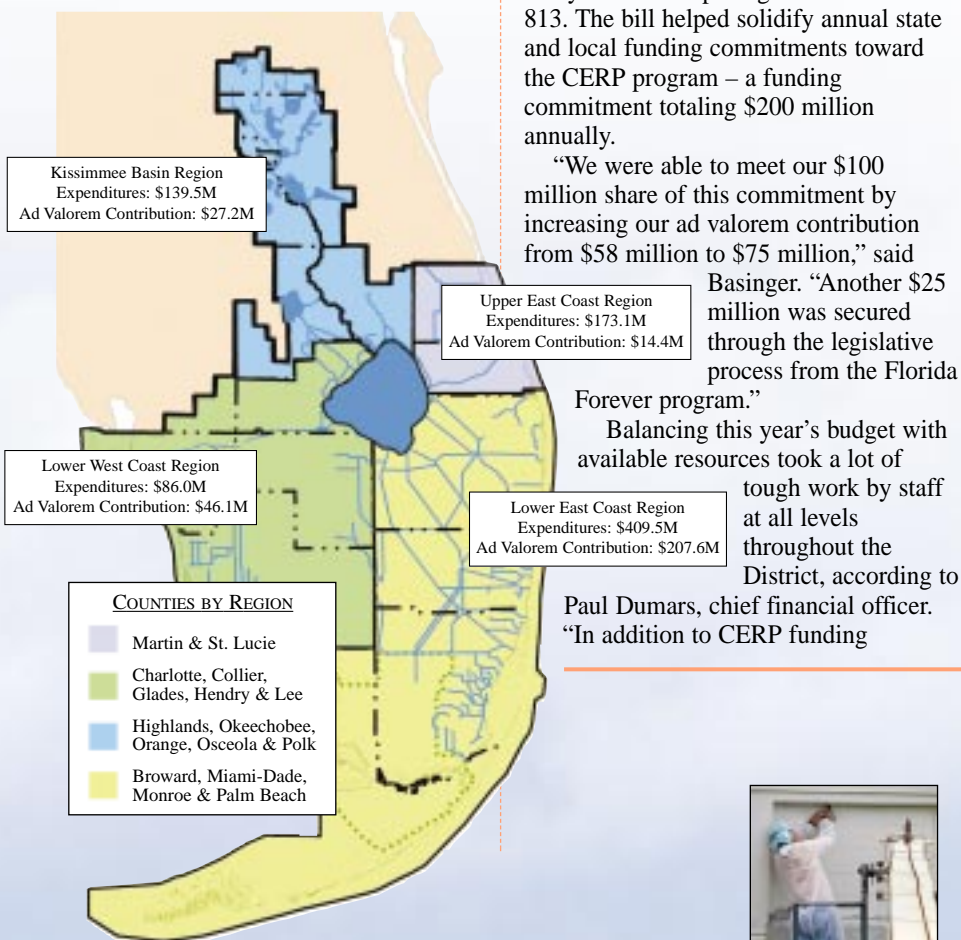




## Where the money is spent

*This geographic representation of the District's FY 2002-2003 budget provides an overview of expenditures and ad valorem revenues received from the four geographic areas within the District boundaries – the lower east coast, lower west coast, upper east coast, and Kissimmee Basin.*

### Budget by Geographic Regions



## Opportunity Knocking!

### Opening Our Door to New Business

We're working harder to make it easier for companies to do business with the South Florida Water Management District.

Over the past several years, adding new businesses – especially small and minority-owned firms – to our vendor and contractor roster has been one of the agency's highest priorities. Special workshops and forums are offered for business owners who may be unfamiliar with, or intimidated by the prospect of dealing with a government agency.

In addition, large, complex projects are no longer automatically packaged together as one contract solicitation. Project managers and District procurement specialists now review and analyze all of the varied job components required to successfully complete the project. When applicable, specific jobs can be solicited separately – creating potential new opportunities for smaller, qualified firms to compete on a level playing field.

When it is not appropriate or beneficial for the District to break a large project into distinct components, the District works with and encourages large "prime contractors" to utilize qualified minority firms. The District maintains a database of

## New Budget Addresses Resource Challenges

That sigh of relief you hear is coming from the District's budget office. October is the first full month of the District's \$808.1 million budget for fiscal year 2002-2003. It is also the first time in an intense six months that Budget Director Aaron Basinger and his staff can wind down – but not for long. By unanimous vote, the Governing Board adopted the budget on September 24. The District's fiscal year began October 1 and ends September 30, 2003.

"One of our major efforts this year," said Basinger, "has been directed at securing funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)."

A major legislative milestone achieved this year was the passage of House Bill 813. The bill helped solidify annual state and local funding commitments toward the CERP program – a funding commitment totaling \$200 million annually.

"We were able to meet our \$100 million share of this commitment by increasing our ad valorem contribution from \$58 million to \$75 million," said Basinger. "Another \$25 million was secured through the legislative process from the Florida Forever program."

Balancing this year's budget with available resources took a lot of tough work by staff at all levels throughout the District, according to Paul Dumars, chief financial officer. "In addition to CERP funding

"... we reexamined how we operate by reducing staff levels, pursuing outsourcing opportunities, and aligning resources with strategic planning initiatives."

– PAUL DUMARS  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



priorities, we reexamined how we operate by reducing staff levels, pursuing outsourcing opportunities, and aligning resources with strategic planning initiatives," said Dumars. "We also emphasized specific and measurable outputs and performance measures throughout the entire budget development process."

The first shot out of the gate on next year's budget comes in January with a Governing Board retreat to set the tone and direction for FY 2003-2004 and beyond. The District will be moving toward the implementation of multi-year budgeting with a close link to long-term strategic planning.

*"I congratulate you...for an excellent budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year. It responds to state, regional and local priorities and it implements efficiencies in business practices wherever possible."*

– GOVERNOR JEB BUSH



to make sure that all requirements are clearly explained.

#### THE BASICS OF DOING BUSINESS

Our purchasing needs are like those of any large corporation: We buy office supplies, safety equipment and paper goods, as well as more specialized equipment. Services required are characteristic of environmental agencies; including remote data collection, laboratory services, feasibility studies, architectural and engineering services, spillway construction, public relations services, legal services and maintenance of the canals, levees, wetlands and waterways that are part of our system.

Our Procurement Department oversees the procurement of goods and services, and the development of contractual relationships. Each year, more than \$60 million is spent with businesses for needed materials and services. That total does not include real estate transactions, selected small item purchases, purchases of regulated items, travel services and the disposal of surplus property.

Contact our Procurement Department by calling our Bid Hotline at 800-472-5290 or 561-682-6391; stop by in person at our headquarters or at one of our the business forums; or visit us on the web at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov) and click on "Procurement & Contracts."

The web site and Bid Hotline list are constantly updated. The information on the web can also assist firms in locating businesses already working with the District, because many firms are actively seeking subcontractors or partners with special expertise or experience.

## Budget Background

In 1976, state voters approved a measure allowing the governing boards of each of the five water management districts to levy their own property taxes.

The voters set a limit of one mill, meaning that for every \$1,000 of assessed value of their home, the taxpayer would pay no more than one dollar per thousand of their home's assessed value. The state Legislature put a cap of 0.8 mills on the South Florida Water Management District.

The District actually levies four separate millage rates within 16 counties across two hydrogeologic basins – the Big Cypress Basin and the Okeechobee Basin. The Big Cypress Basin includes Collier County and a small portion of northwest Monroe County. The larger Okeechobee Basin includes the remaining counties within the District's taxing jurisdiction – which includes all of Florida's east coast, lower west coast, and the Kissimmee Basin.

The District's current property tax rate for the Big Cypress Basin is .5265 mills. For the Okeechobee Basin it is .6970 mills, which includes a separate .1 mill levy passed by the Florida Legislature for the Everglades Construction Project.

The last time the District raised its tax rate was in 1998 to fund critical restoration projects – precursors to today's more massive Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.